family pension - DR at CPI 1510, interim relief I & II and fitment weightage of 40% instead of 20% as recommended by the Pay Commission.

4. Consolidated pension to be not less than 50% of the minimum of the revised scale of pay as on 1.1.1996 of the post last held by the pensioner.

5. Definition of emoluments modified to include DA for purpose of gratuity.

6. Adoption of a uniform rate of 30% of pay as family pension for all categories of employees against the varying rates of family pension prior to 1.1.1996.

7. Enhancement in the rate of commutation of pension from one third to 40% of pension.

8. Pensioners/Family Pensioners being given Dearness Relief on the same scale as that of serving employees.

9. Grant of Rs. 100/- as medical allowance to eligible pensioners residing in areas not covered by CGHS facilities.

10. Extension of Dearness Relief to employed family pensioners and re-employed pensioners whose pay is fixed at the minimum of the scale.

Indo-US Cooperation

*659. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether three documents for closer Indo-US cooperation were signed during recent visit of US President to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof; and

(c) the steps since taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a)Yes. Sir.

(b) During the recent visit of President Clinton to India, Prime Minister Vijpayee and President Clinton singned a Statement outlining their vision of a new relationship between India and the United States. The two countries

also signed an Agreement for setting up of a Science and Technology Forum and issued a joint Statement on Co-operation in Energy and Environment.

The Vision Statement expresses the desire of the two countries to chart a new and purposeful direction in bilateral relations and to establish a closer and qualitatively new relationship. It outlines the contours of defines the agenda of partnership in the 21st century. As part of the vision of the new relationship, the two sides agreed on an architecture of regular, wide-ranging and multi-layered institutionalised dialogue. Under this architecture, the two sides agreed on regular bilateral summits between Prime Minister and the US President. There will also be regular dialogue on foreign policy and security matters at the ministerial and official levels. An institutional framework for dialogue on economic and commercial issues, counter- terrorism, energy and environment, and science and technology has also been established.

The Forum on Science and Technology is designed to facilitate interaction between the scientific communities of the two countries and to enhance collaboration in the erea of science and technology.

The Joint Statement on Coeperation in energy and Environment express the intention of the two countries to create a Joint Consultative Committee to foster greater bilateral co-operation, Government-to- Government dialogue and further encourage public and private sector co-operation in these sectors. The Joint Consultative Group will ensure an institutional framework between the two countries to (a) identify, initiate and monitor public and private collaborative projects in research, development, transfer, deomonstration and deployment of appropriate technologies and review policies in the areas of clean energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency and power sector reform, (b) explore, and expand opportunities for commercial development and co-operation in clean energy, and (c) enhance co-operation on climate change issues that arise in the context of the United National Framework Convention on Climate.

(c) Both sides has agreed to take early steps to implement the institutional dialogue. Prime Minister has accepted the invitation of President Clinton to visit the US at a mutually convenient time.

Phasing Out of Subsidy of Petroleum Products

*660. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: